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ABSTRACT

These learning activities are designed for use in the classroom or at home when activities for special moments are needed. They can be introduced with a minimum amount of preparation and materials and a maximum amount of success. They are intended to give children a learning experience that is fun while developing imagination and creative thinking. The activities are organized into five sections. The first section (creative quickies) contains 39 interdisciplinary activities. The second section contains 24 writing activities designed to provide children with different approaches for writing stories. Twelve holiday activities designed to provide children with learning experiences that include values are presented in the third section. The fourth section contains seven special day activities which can be used with units of study or used just for fun. Five activities meant to provide extended learning experiences through the making of booklets are described in the fifth section. (JW)

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CREATIVE QUICKIES

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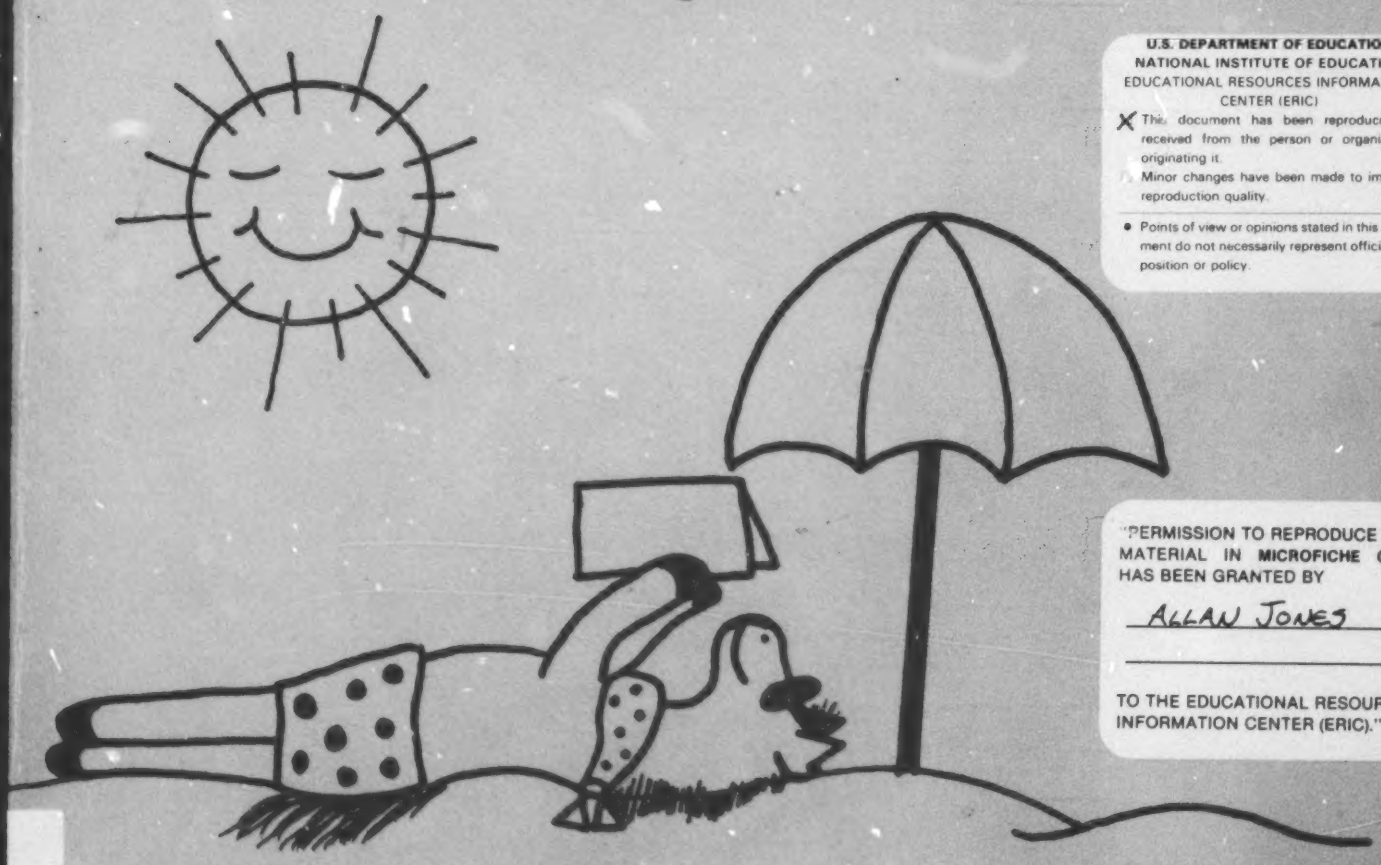

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Janifer Gorney

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INTRODUCTION

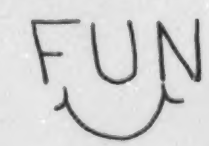
Often while working with children, there are times when a person needs special activities for special moments.

When we find ourselves in this situation, we need an effective source to turn to.....

In your hands it lies.

Creative Quickies, designed for those moments of panic.

The activities found on the following pages can be introduced with a minimum amount of preparation and material and a maximum amount of

Creative Quickies has also been designed to give children a learning experience that is 

and develops imagination and creative thinking.

Some of these activities may be familiar and are included as a reminder of a successful idea.

We hope Creative Quickies will help enrich those special moments in the classroom, at home, or anyplace.

Sincerely,

Allan Jones

Janifer Gorney

P.S.

Many thanks to our students who have let us test and prove Creative Quickies.

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INSTRUCTIONS

Here are afew ideas to make Creative Quickies more useful.

Make a booklet for each child. Collect their creative work and glue in the booklet. Parents will enjoy a nice keepsake.

Use any size paper for the activities in this book. The sizes given are what we have found works best. Discarded computer paper is useful and can be used for making the keepsake booklets mentioned above.

Remember these activities are for creative enjoyment. It is important to let children feel uninhibited by spelling and literary form. We do hope children will take pride in their work and do their very best.

Creative Quickies

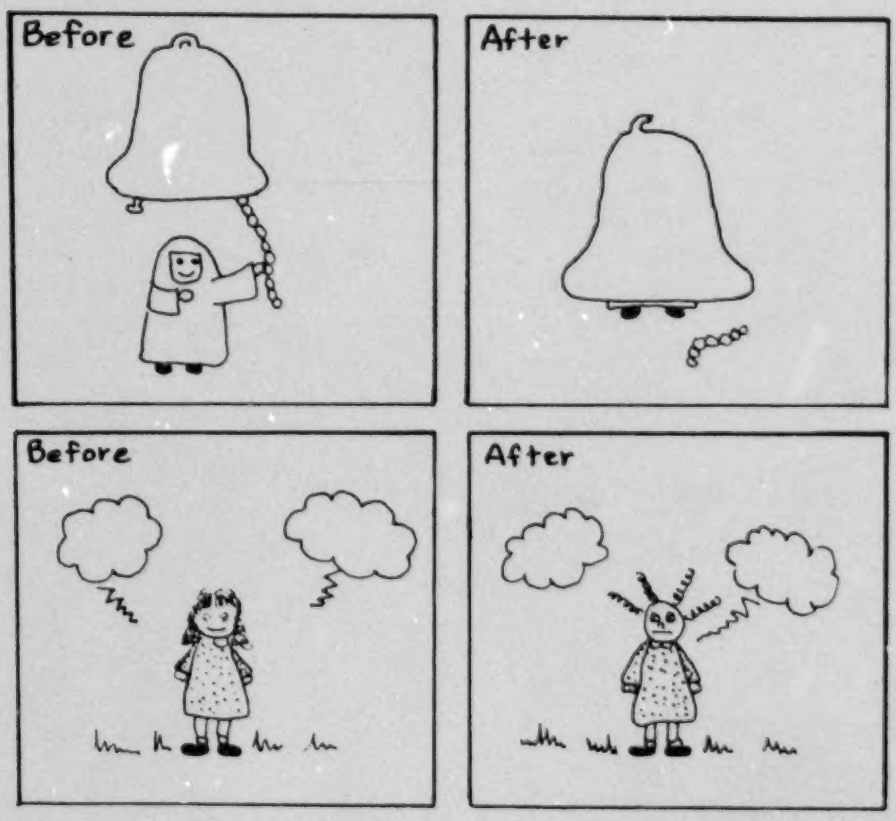
These activities are designed to take a minimum amount of preparation. The materials needed are usually easily accessible.

One of the key factors for success with these activities is your enthusiasm while presenting them. Children will react to your enthusiasm and motivation with their own creative response.

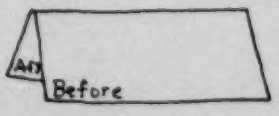
Book cover design was a response from "Parakeet Goes Sunbathing", found on page 6.

Before And After

This activity creates some real thinking. Children think of something about to happen, they then imagine the results and draw the before and after.

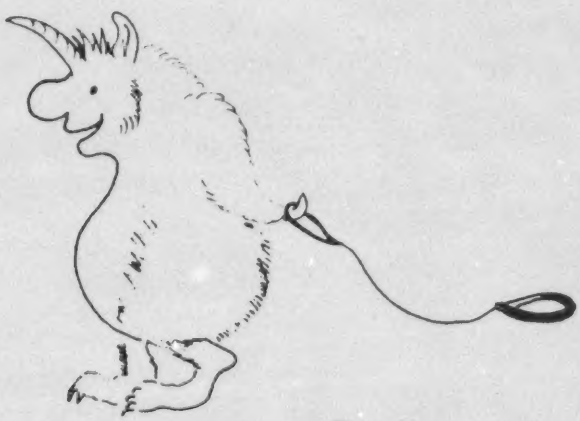


Paper can also be folded like this.....



Monster's Pet Art Contest

On a large piece of butcher paper draw a monster, with childrens help, or it can be drawn ahead of time. Have the monster holding a leash that leads to the empty collar. Children then draw or create out of scraps a pet suitable for the monster. After all ideas have been submitted a judging could be held to choose the perfect pet for the monster.



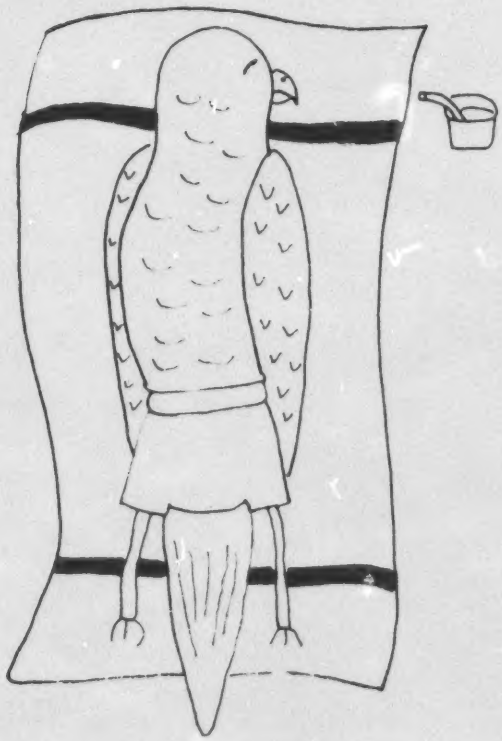
P.S.
What would monster feed his pet?
What kind of home would he build for his pet?

Parakeet Goes Sunbathing

Make a list of things children enjoy doing: like swimming, eating hamburgers, bicycling, camping, surfing, riding horses, fishing, etc.

What would it be like if children saw animals dressed in clothing doing those fun things?

Now draw and color a picture of an animal doing something you enjoy doing.



What Critter Makes Bread Mold?

Have children make up critters that cause things to happen. For instance:

What critter makes us ill?

What critter makes bread mold?

What critter makes us perspire?

What critter makes us dirty?

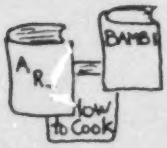
What critter makes water freeze?

What critter makes bread rise?

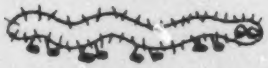
A little critter ties a string on the dough and pulls until it rises.

Pleasure is .....

Books



A green caterpillar



A baby chick

Misery is .....

A headache

Being in love

Walking hand in hand
with a boy you don't like.

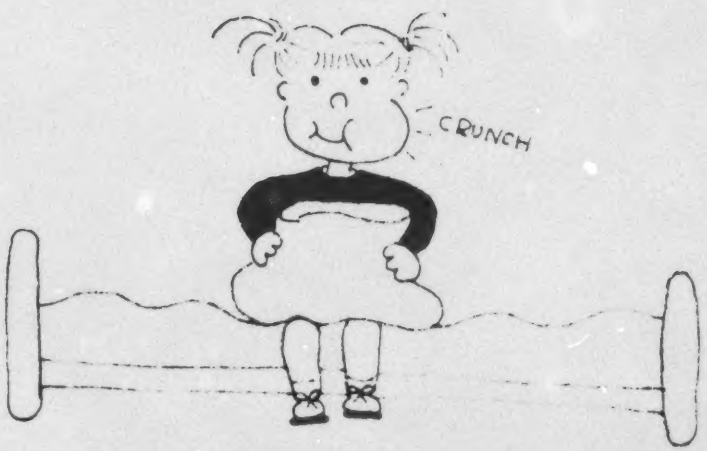
Nursery Rhyme Change About

Read a nursery rhyme. Have children write a rhyme, change the wording, but keep the same rhythm. For instance:

Little Miss Muffet
Sat on her tuffet .....

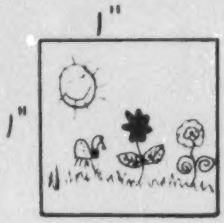
Becomes

Little Miss Susie
Sat on her waterbed
Eating her crunchie granola
Along came a great monster
Who sat down beside her
And said, "what a nice waterbed."



Mini Picture Stories

Cut some inch square paper. Ask children to draw a mini picture. Children have fun drawing small once in awhile. Glue their mini picture on some writing paper so they can write about their picture.



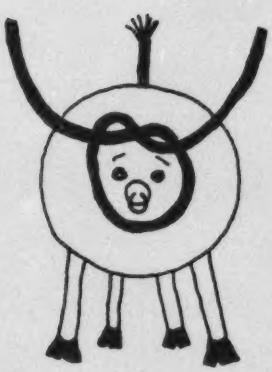
Tear Out A Story Character

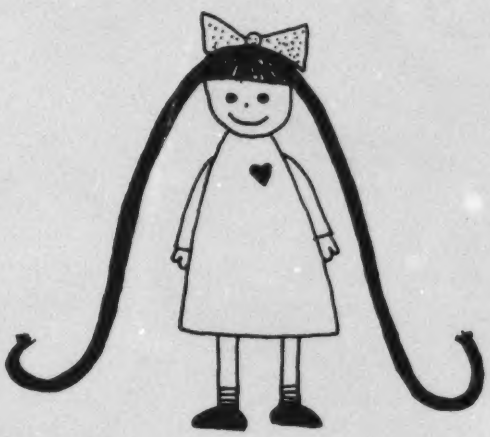
Give each child a piece of construction paper. Ask them to carefully tear out a critter, animal or person. No scissors allowed. Glue the finished product on a piece of paper and write a story.

Yarn Doodles

Give each child a piece of yarn about 6" long. Have them use it as a main part of a drawing of some object. (The yarn should be left in one piece.) Some examples are:

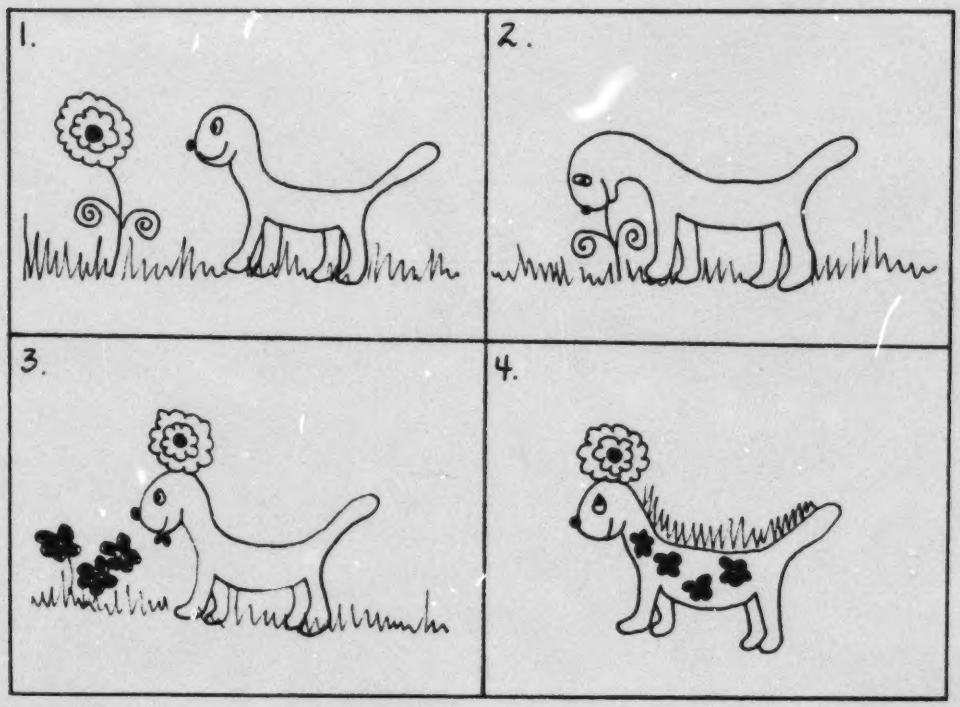
- lions tail
- bulls horns
- fishing pole
- mast on a ship
- flag pole
- diving board

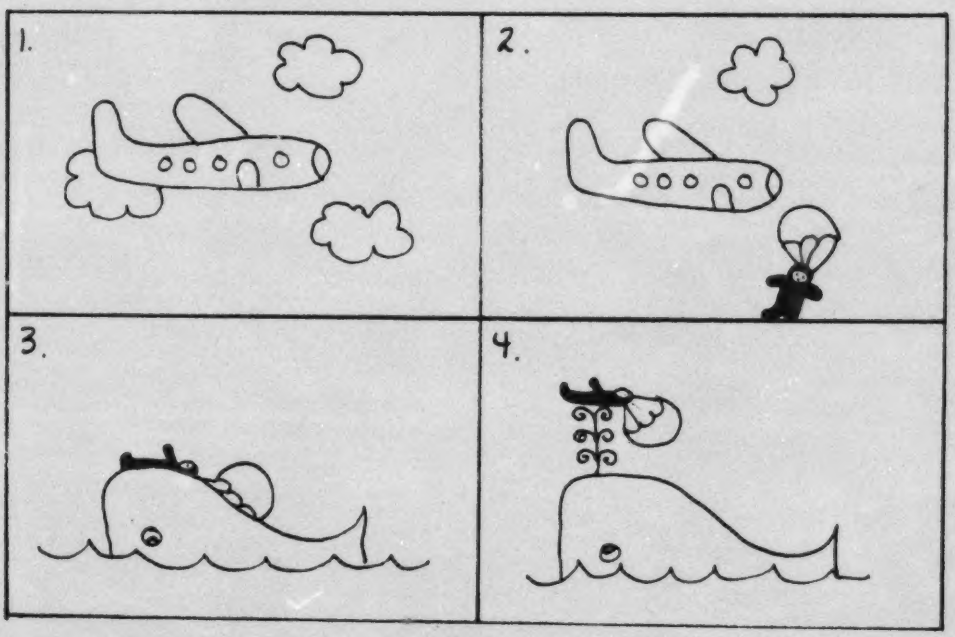




Sequence Drawings

Show an example of a sequence drawing and ask children to make up one of their own.

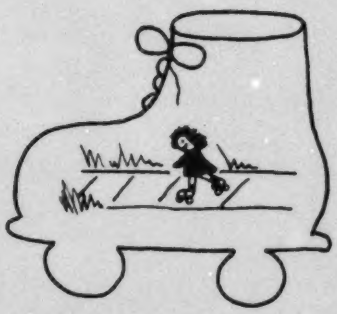


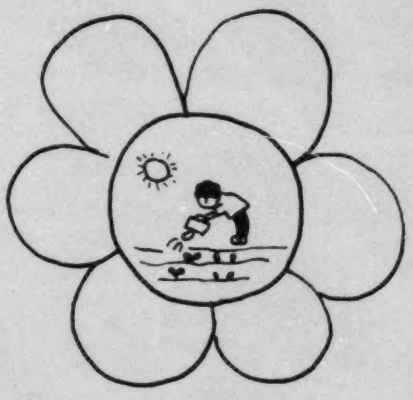


Vacation Fun

In a group have children discuss what kinds of things they'll be doing during vacation. Things like bicycling, sports, camping, planting a garden, etc. Each child then decides on one activity they'd like to illustrate. Then they think of the main object used for that activity.

On a large sheet of paper they draw an outline of that main object.... like a roller skate. Then they cut it out and draw themselves doing that activity on the inside of the shape in careful detail.

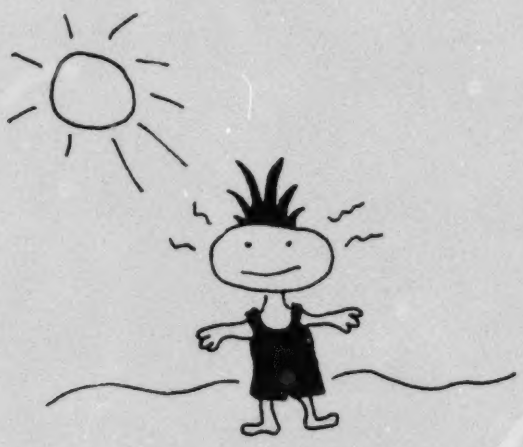


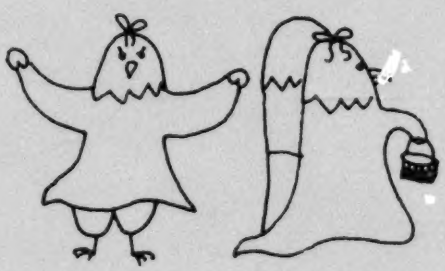


Draw A Saying

On small slips of paper write down as many sayings as possible, for instance: mad as a wet hen, fat as a pig, neat as a pin, see you later alligator, red as a beet, snug as a bug in a rug, busy as a bee and mad as a hatter.

Mix sayings up in a container and let children draw out one and illustrate it.



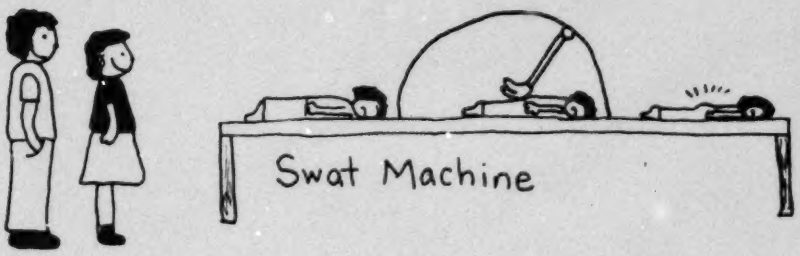


More sayings: sly as a fox,
naked as a jaybird,
free as a bird,
happy as a lark,
work like a dog,
tickled pink,
cool as a cucumber.

Hint: maybe children would enjoy making up their own sayings.

Inventor For A Day

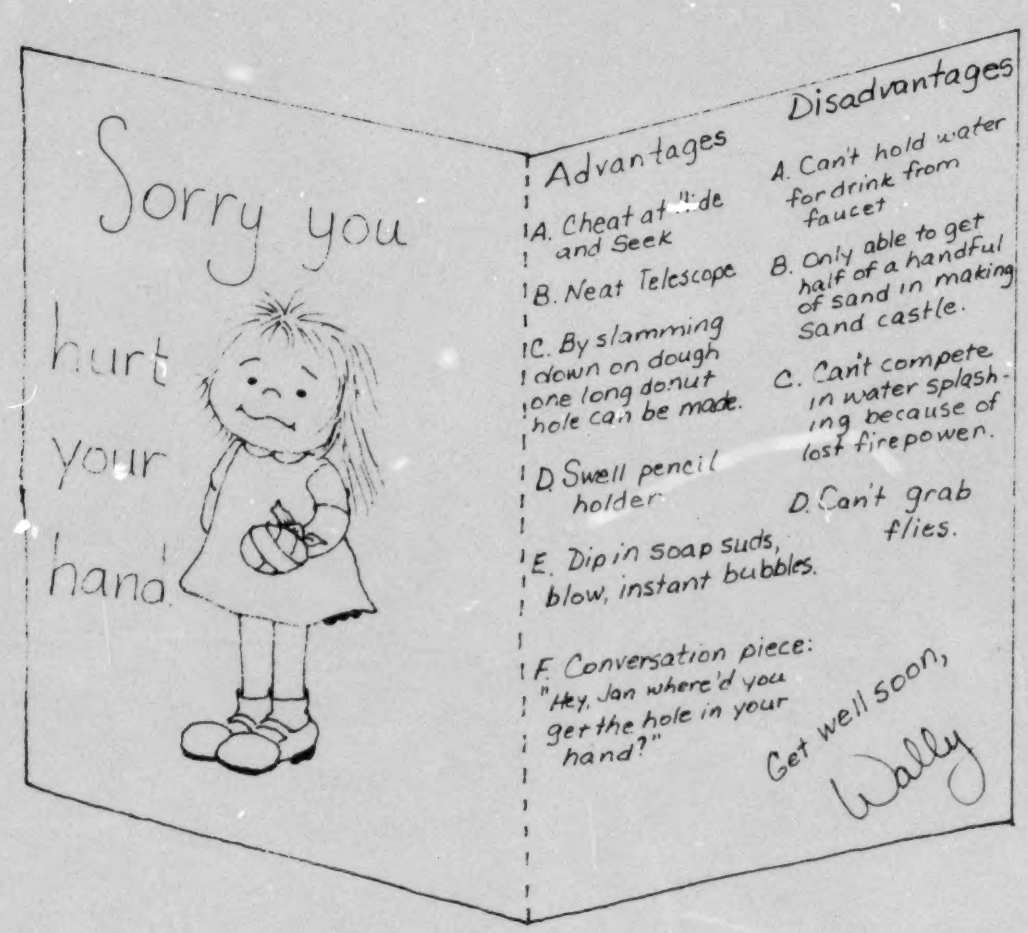
Pass out some drawing paper and story paper. Ask children to invent something that has never been invented before. Or they can change or add to something that has already been invented.



Create A Card

There are many occasions when children can make a card. For instance Mom or Dad's birthday. Cards can also be made for friends who are ill or have had an accident.

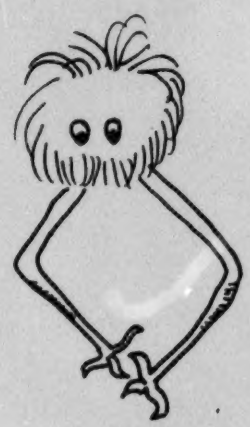
Below is an example of a card Janifer received when she punctured her hand with a key.


Sorry you hurt your hand
Advantages
A. Cheat at Hide and Seek
B. Neat Telescope
C. By slamming down on dough one long donut hole can be made.
D. Swell pencil holder
E. Dip in soap suds, blow, instant bubbles.
F. Conversation piece: "Hey, Jan where'd you get the hole in your hand?"
Disadvantages
A. Can't hold water for drink from faucet
B. Only able to get half of a handful of sand in making sand castle.
C. Can't compete in water splashing because of lost firepower.
D. Can't grab flies.
Get well soon,
Wally

Story Critters

Have children make up their own critter and have them write a story about that critter.

Children can use this same critter for different stories. A book with chapters can also be written about their critter.



Peek a Boo

Give each child a piece of construction paper 6"x9". Fold it in half to form a card. With a paper punch put a hole about two inches from the top of the left side. [fig 1] Close the card and have children draw a person or an animal peeking through the hole. Open the card and have them draw what's being looked at.

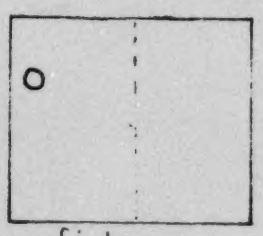
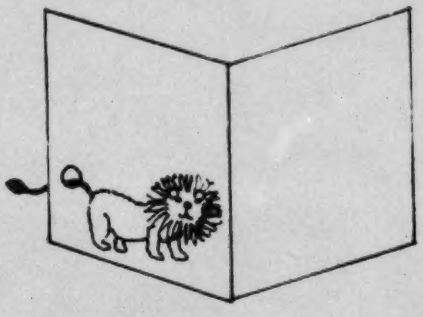


fig 1

Peek a Boo Tale

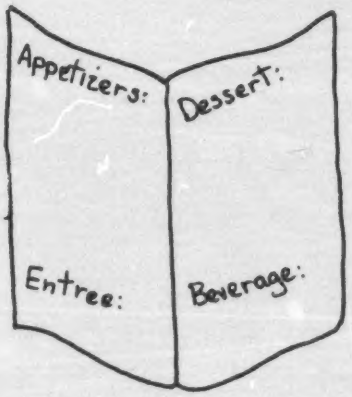
A variation of the above activity would be to give each child a piece of yarn and have them draw an animal inside the card and have it's tail hanging through the card.



Tasty Menus

After children look over different examples of menus, have them make up their own menu for a make believe restaurant. Provide them with a large piece of heavy paper and they fold it in half. On the front side they design a cover with the restaurant name on it: like Hamburger Heaven. On the inside they write the menu and under their specialties they could include a mouth watering description. Don't forget to list the prices.

The menu could include:

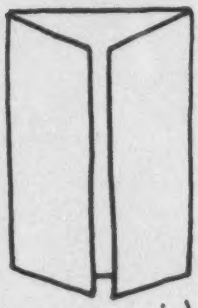


Words to describe
delicious
delectable
farm fresh
scrumptous
yummy
tummy pleaser
juicy
tender

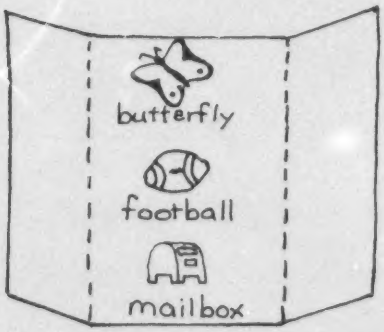
Hint: have children order meals from the different menus.

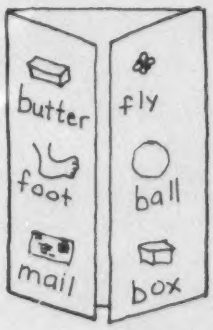
Compound Word Fun

Fold an 8x11 piece of plain paper so it looks like this:



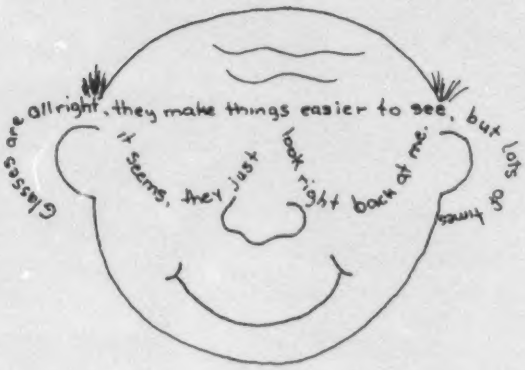
on the inside, the children write three compound words they want to illustrate, spaced so they can draw each one. Then on the outside they write the first half of the word on the left side and draw it. The second half of the word goes on the right side.

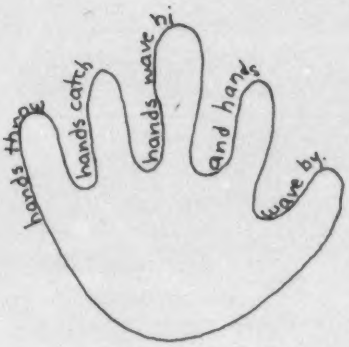




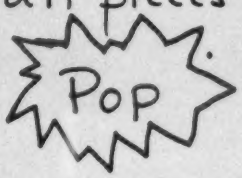
Write Around A Shape

Children pick an object to write about, for instance: a puppy, sunglasses, trees, houses, hands, etc. Children can write a short poem or afew thoughts about their object. On drawing paper they outline the shape of the object lightly. Next, the children write their words around the shape. They will need to space the words out and may have to add afew words. They may color in the rest of the object.

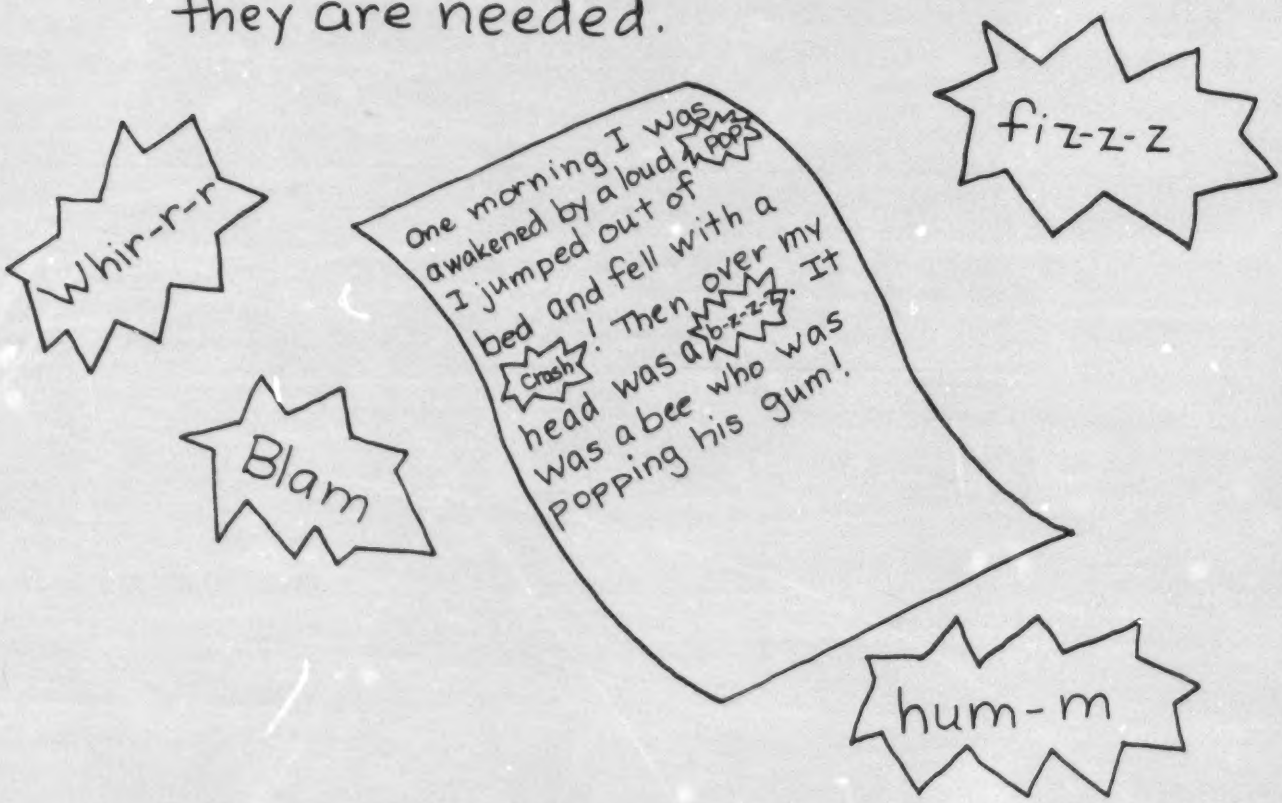




Noisy Stories

Make a list of noise words. For example: Bang, squish, splat, plop, swish, clang, crash, and sh-h-h-h. Write these and other noise words on small pieces of paper shaped like this 

Give four or five of these noise words to each child and have them write a noisy story. They glue small cut papers in story wherever they are needed.


fiz-z-z
Whir-r-r
One morning I was awakened by a loud Pop! I jumped out of bed and fell with a Crash! Then over my head was a b-z-z-z. It was a bee who was popping his gum!
Blam
hum-m

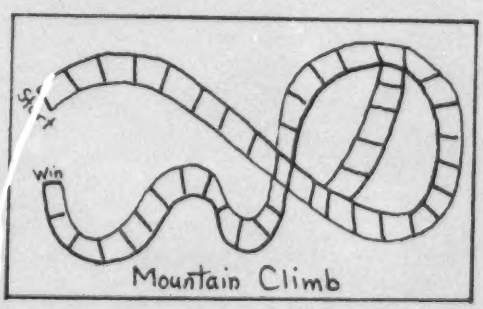
Invent A Game Board

On a large piece of drawing paper, children map out a circular path of squares with a beginning and an end. Have the children choose a theme.* Then the children draw in hazards and bonuses, like: fell in lake, lose a turn, or Slid down path, skip 2. They could even put in detours. A large game may be drawn on the board, so that the children get the idea. After each child has finished making their boards, they can make little figures for markers and a spinner to tell how many spaces to move. Then they could write out rules and share their games with each other.

Themes*

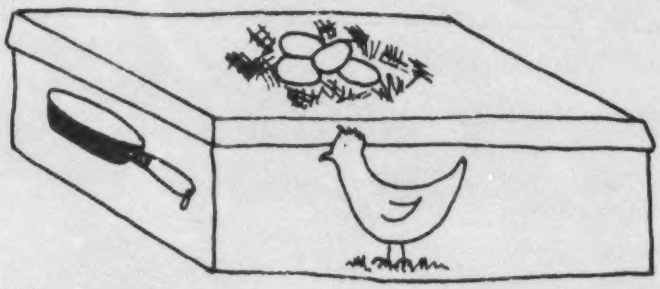
Jungle Junket
Mountain Climb
Desert Walk
Swamp Journey
Safari Trip
North Pole Hike
Forest Frolic
South of the Border
Ocean Tour

Game Board Example



The Mystery Box

Give the children a few days to bring in a special thing from home in some kind of a box. They may wish to decorate the box. Children are to have a list of clues (in complete sentences) to help the other children guess whats in their box. Each child presents their mystery box and reads a clue and gives other children a chance to guess. He proceeds until all clues are read. When object is guessed the mystery box is opened. One box could be done each day until everyone has a chance to share.



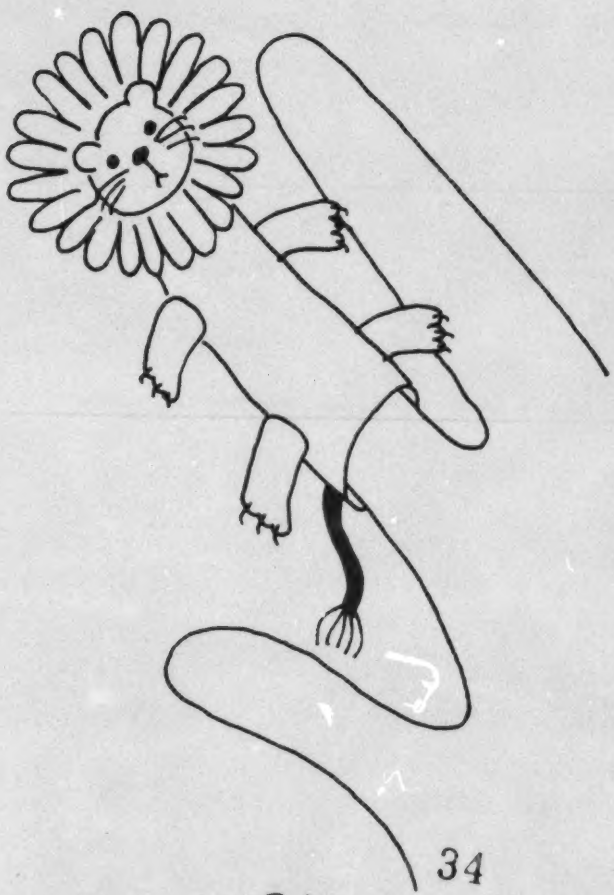
Hint: If a child forgets his mystery box, he could draw one on paper, write his clues, and then draw what's inside on the back.

First Impressions

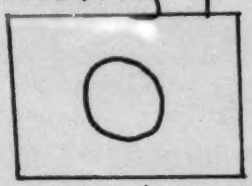
Near the end of the first day of school or sometime during the first week, pass out large paper plates to each child. On the front side in the middle, have children draw their face the way it looked most of the day. Then teacher goes around with a marking pen and write around the edge of the plate what the child's thoughts were the first day back at school. These make a fun bulletin board when hung together.

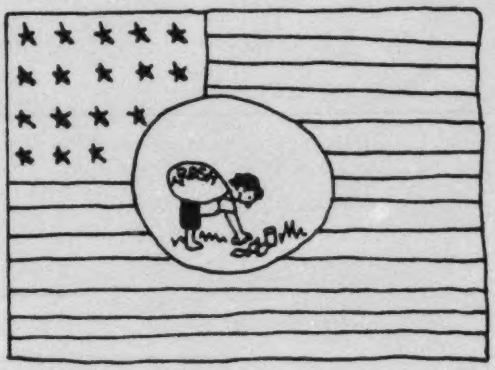
Finger Puppets

Make good use of scraps, especially trims, fur, lace, etc. Start with a heavy piece of paper 3"x4" and roll into a cylinder to fit on top of finger. Then have children turn their cylinder into kings, lions, policemen, fancy ladies, or anything like that. Now make up plays and stories.



Patriotic Bullseye

Draw a circle in the middle of a piece of drawing paper that is this shape:  Inside the circle children draw themselves doing something patriotic, like being a Brownie marching with the flag, picking up litter, or saving the bald eagle. Then around the circle on the rest of the paper they draw the American flag.

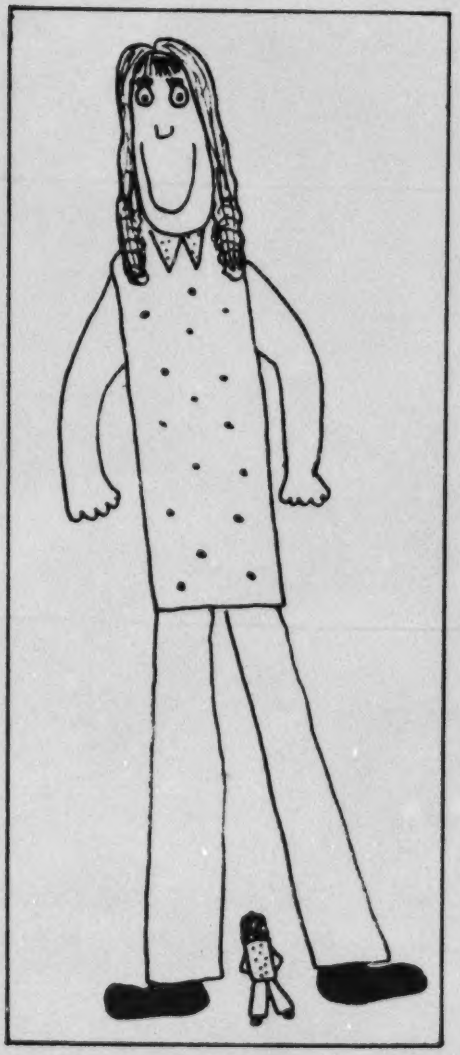


Variation: State flags could be used where appropriate.

Funny Mirrors

Talk about mirrors that make people look different. Some make you look short and fat and some make you look tall and skinny.

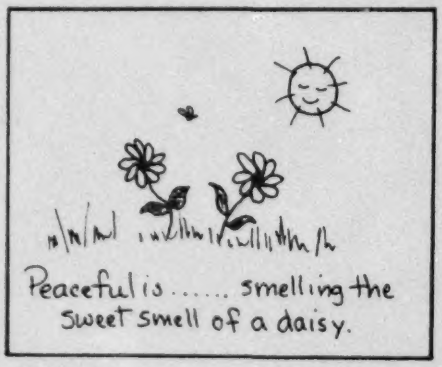
Children are to draw themselves short and fat on one side of drawing paper and tall and skinny on the other side.



What Is Peaceful?

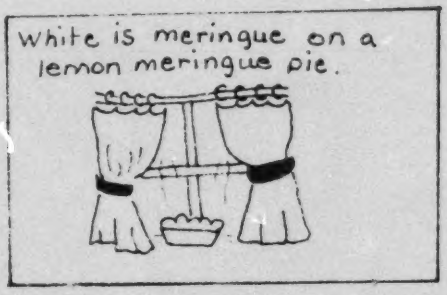
Have children close their eyes as you describe a peaceful scene. Like a soft green meadow with springtime bunnies scampering about.

Now tell children to draw their own idea of a peaceful scene. Have them write a sentence at the bottom of the paper describing their picture. Pastel colored paper is nice for this activity.



Red Is A Sunburn On My Back

Discuss colors and the moods they put you in. Children choose a color to describe with words and a picture. The words must be in complete sentences. Encourage children to describe their color with an uncommon description. Don't use red is an apple. After the children have finished, mount their work on a piece of construction paper the same color as they have used.

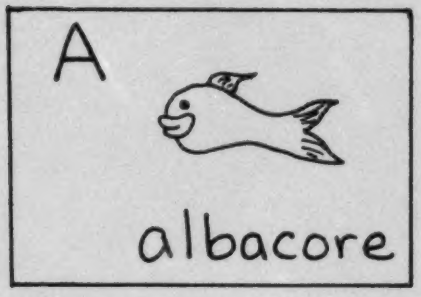


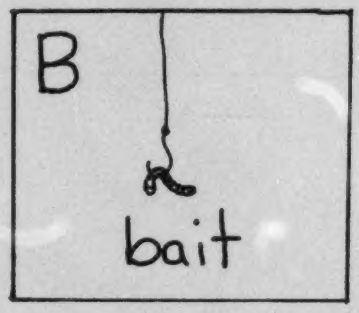
Some other ideas children thought of:

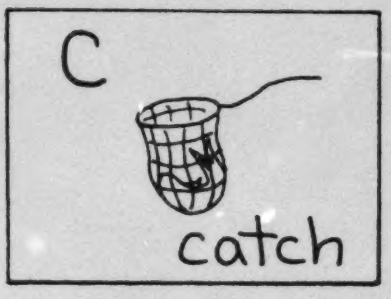
Red is a wounded cowboy
Purple is a sunset at the end of the day
White is losing a tooth
Black is a vampire's cape
Black is a stallion racing in the wind

A Fishy Alphabet Book

Give each child a small booklet or a piece of paper and let them create a fishy alphabet book written for fish.







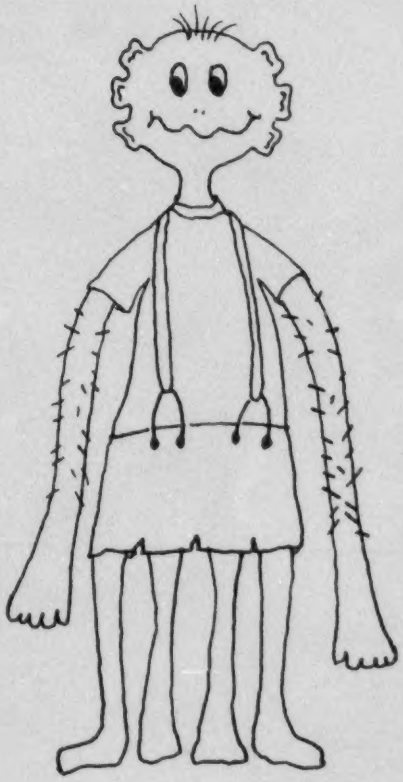
P.S.
Of course there is no limit, children can write alphabet books for cows, dogs, lizards, etc.

Draw A Description

Have each child write a description of a funny, weird critter. Be sure they include alot of details.

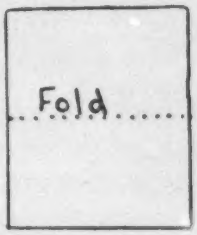
Next, have children exchange their descriptions and instruct them to draw the description given them, on a piece of drawing paper.

There's this creature, he has red eyes, its skin is green, and it has three ears on each side of its round head. The creatures mouth is purple and it has a wiggle smile. Its arms are long, and hairy. It has four legs and wears short pants. The End

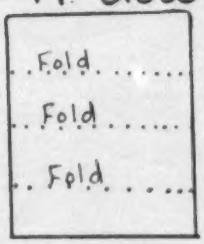


One Thing And Then Another

Give children a piece of paper 6"X14". Have them fold the paper in half.



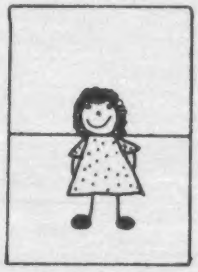
Now take the top end and fold it down to the middle fold.



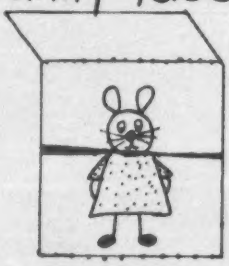
Now take the bottom end and fold it up to the middle fold.

Now the fun begins. Draw a funny critter or animal on the inside part

Now fold down the top flap and fold up the bottom flap and draw a person.



Now when you lift the top flap, your person will have a funny face.



From Little To Big

Fold a piece of paper in half, four times. When the paper is folded small, have children draw something on the small square. For instance: a little seed, a baby animal, anything small. Then unfold once and draw the hat larger and add something. [fig. 2] Then unfold it again and draw the hat larger and add something. [fig 3] Then unfold it again and add more. [fig. 4] Unfold once again and finish. [fig. 5]

Fig 2

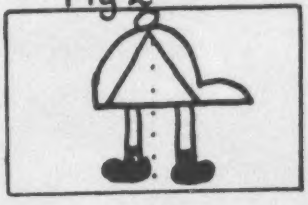


Fig 3

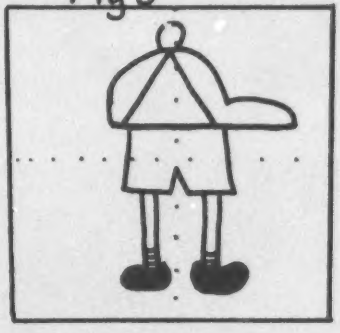


Fig. 4

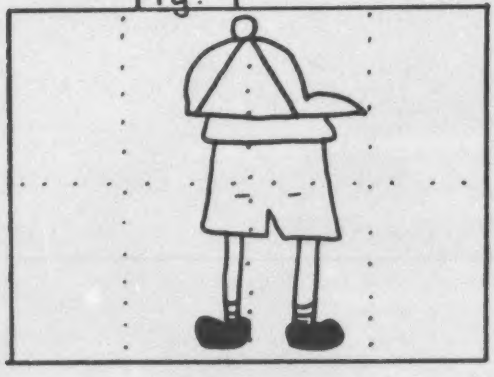
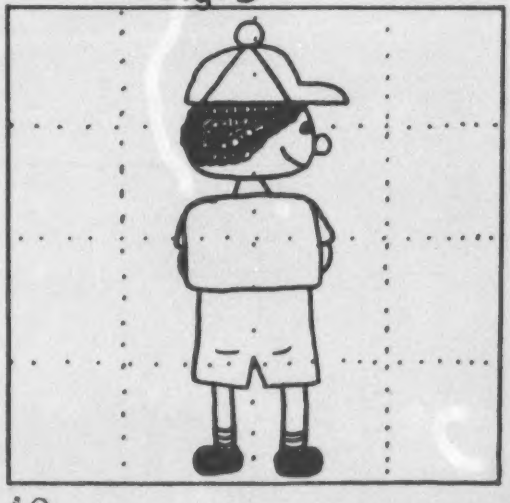


Fig. 5

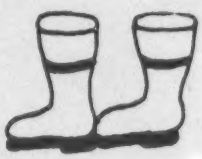


Draw Your Name

Each child can have fun drawing his or her name.
For example:

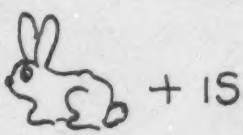
John Levi

Sherrie Bootz



Jim Rosell

Jeff Harris



Kim Pearson

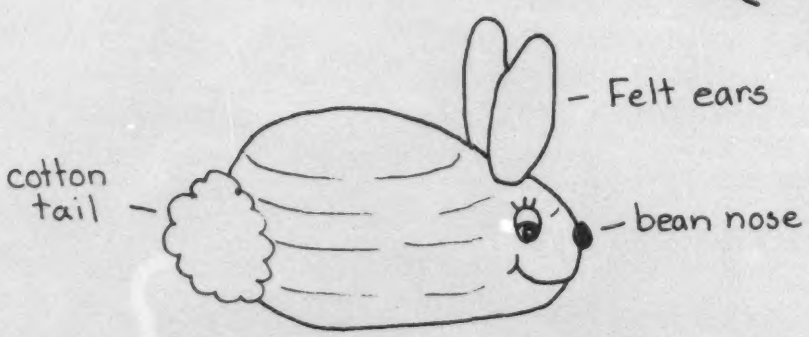
P+ +

Pet Rock Show

Before show day, have children find a rock to enter into one of the categories listed. Rocks can be decorated or undecorated. You may wish to have someone judge the pet rocks. Ribbons can be awarded for the best rock in each category.

Categories:

- Most colorful
- Best decorated
- Unusual shape
- Funniest
- Best trained
  - Play dead
  - Roll over
  - Sit up



Make Up A Commercial

All of us are familiar with commercials. Before the children write their commercial or design their ad, remind them the object is to sell their product by showing how "marvelous" it is.

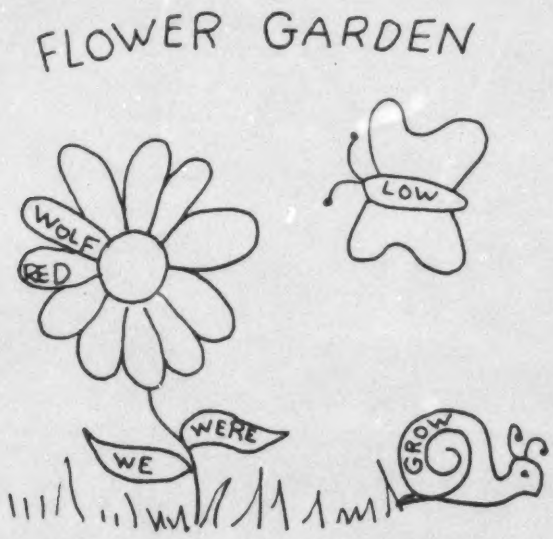
Have children make up their own product and name.

Optional: a ditto could be passed like this

Pictures should be drawn by children.

A Garden Of Words

Have children write "Flower Garden" at the top of a piece of drawing paper using only the letters in those two words they make up words and draw those words into a flower garden on the leaves, in petals, on butterflies, around snails, grass blades, etc. They should try to write in as many words as possible.



Hint:
When children color they may want to outline the garden with bright colors so words show up.

Hint:
Children may want to write words on back first.

City Planners

Divide children into groups of four or five, and tell them to imagine they've been hired as a team to design the perfect city. First on paper they list important things to be included in a city, like gas stations, parks, power plants, highways, houses, etc. Then on a large piece of butcher paper they sketch in their plan and color it. When its completed they write a brief description telling why their city is best.

Remember When

Start this activity by reminiscing over some special things that happened in class, i.e. a science experiment that flopped, or when Johnny kicked a winning homerun. List some of these things on the board. Children select the ones they want to illustrate. They should start each description with Remember when ..... and finish with a complete sentence. Make each description look like a photograph.

Remember when.... Joey
was rubbing his eye
during an art project
and he glued his eye shut.

Toothpick Treehouse

On a large piece of heavy drawing paper, have children sketch a tree with branches and leaves. They color it and then with toothpicks, they build a treehouse in their tree. With scraps of paper they can cut out people to go in their treehouse.

Have children write a "Treehouse Tale", or "Terrific Things to Do In A Treehouse".

Creative Writing

These writing activities are designed to provide children with different approaches for writting stories.

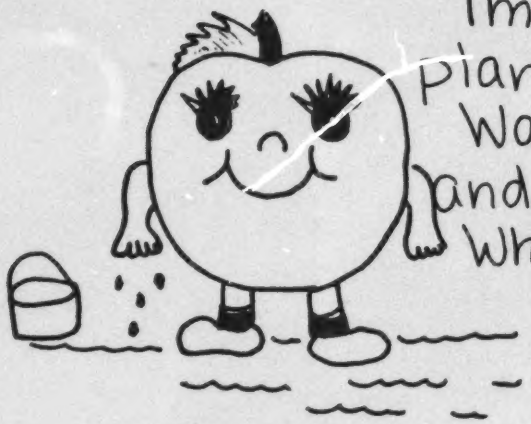
Share the examples shown in the book with the children, but encourage individual ideas.

Encourage children to share their stories with each other.

As mentioned before, punctuation and spelling are important, but if overstressed can inhibit a relaxed creative writing experience.

Be A Vegetable

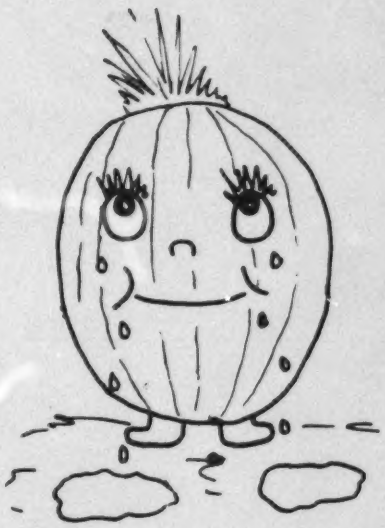
What would life be like as a vegetable? Draw and color a vegetable. Write a story or poem to go along with the drawing.



"I'm a tomato fat and round,
planting seeds in the ground.
Watching them grow
and not letting anyone know
Where I will hide my tomatoes."

Maria age 8

Onions are fat and round
they grow in the ground
I eat onions
But I don't get bunions
on my feet
and boy is that neat.



Tips For Healthy Monsters

What child doesn't enjoy discussing monsters? Here's a chance for them to create their own monsters, and then list 10 good tips for keeping their monster healthy and happy. The monsters could be drawn, or made out of junk collected outside or at home. This is really a chance for imaginations to go wild. And remind them too a monster need not be horrid, some are quite cuddly.

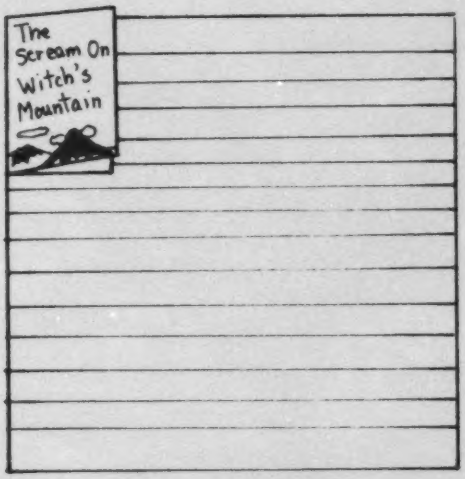
Tip: If you scream at him he may hide in your closet and not come out.

Tip: Don't cut his hair because monsters have feelings too.

Tip: Let him prowl around if he wants to.

Mini Book Covers

Give each child a piece of plain paper 3"x5". Fold it like a miniature book and draw scribble lines on the inside, and make up a title with illustration and author (their name) on the outside. They staple this mini book jacket in the corner of a piece of writing paper, and then proceed to write a story using the mini book cover for motivation.

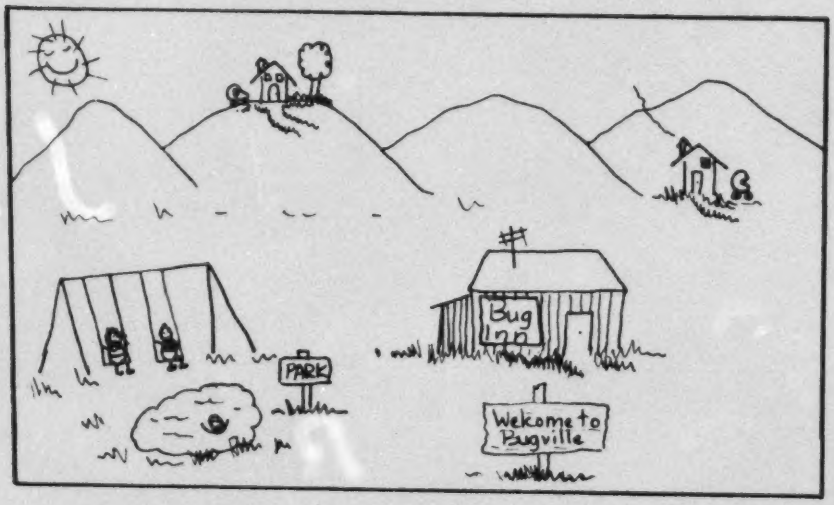


Hint: On the inside of the mini book child may write a brief description of what the story is going to be about.

Think Small

What does Bugville look like?
What does Tinyville look like?
Sharpen pencils so drawings can be quite small.

Draw a picture of a tiny village. Then write a small newspaper for your tiny village.



15¢ **Bugville News** Temp. 80° June 10

House Burns

Robbery
$5,000 taken from Mrs. Grass-Hopper

Garage Sale
Toys, clothes, Furniture

President Bugoff to visit Bugville
Pres. and Mrs Bugoff will visit our city. Security is tight. We don't want our president stepped on.

T.V. Guide
7:00 Planet of the people
8:00 Love Bug Style
9:00 The Natural Couple
10:00 News

Art Show
Come to the ladies club Art Show. All paintings for sale. Cheap!

Travelogues

Put a piece of drawing paper and lined paper together and fold longwise so that writing paper is on the inside. Staple at the top. Children select a place they have visited and write about it on the inside, then they draw a scene from that place on the outside. The idea is to encourage other people to visit this place. They should include information on where to stay, where to eat, special points of interest, and how far it is to get there.

Hint:

Children could pick a special building, i.e. the capitol or a museum.

Things That Make Me Smile

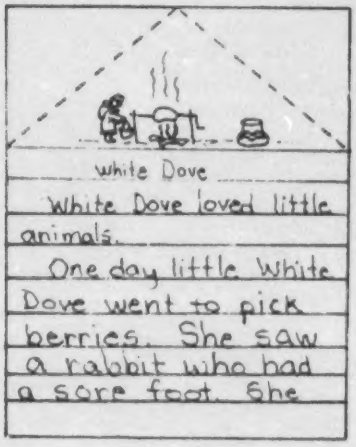
Cool raindrops on my nose in the summer, crispy french fries with ketchup, waterskiing at dawn on a smooth lake.... After discussing these and others, have children get with a partner and give the pair two pieces of paper. First, partner #1 makes a list of 10 things that partner #2 says makes him smile. Write in complete sentences. Then #2 writes down what makes #1 smile. At the bottom each draws the other partners million dollar smile.

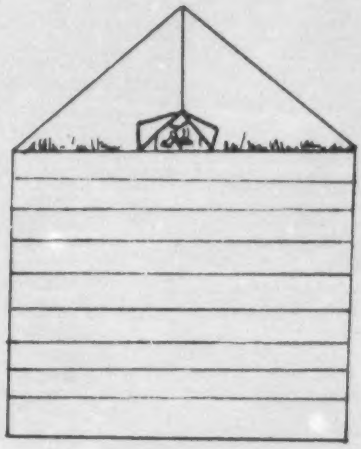
Paper Tents

Where might you see or use a tent? Have you ever gone camping in the mountains or along the ocean? Some Indians lived in tents called teepees.

Think of an adventure, or make up a story about a tent experience.

Fold a piece of lined paper so the top looks like a tent. Lift the flaps and draw the inside of tent. Write a story on the lines below the tent.


White Dove
White Dove loved little animals.
One day little White Dove went to pick berries. She saw a rabbit who had a sore foot. She



Introduction To Chapter Stories

Take two pieces of lined story paper and put together, top one about an inch below the bottom paper. Then fold up so that it looks like #3. Staple at bottom.

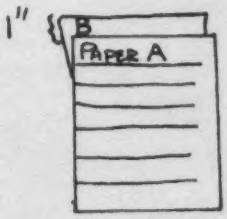


Fig. 1

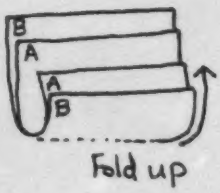


Fig. 2

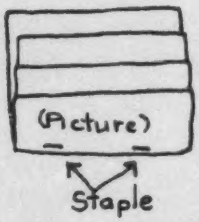
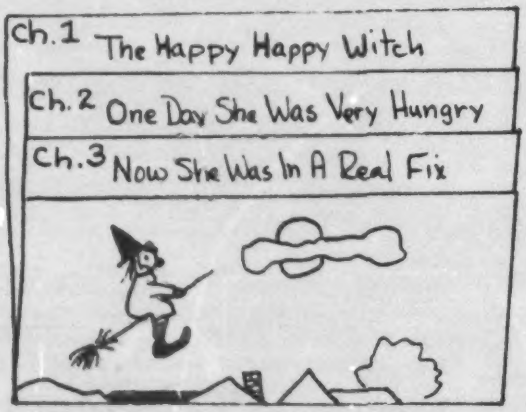


Fig. 3

Each child has one of these booklets, to write their story. The chapter titles are written at the top of each section. Then they fold down the paper in front of that section and write that chapter of the story. Example of chapters:



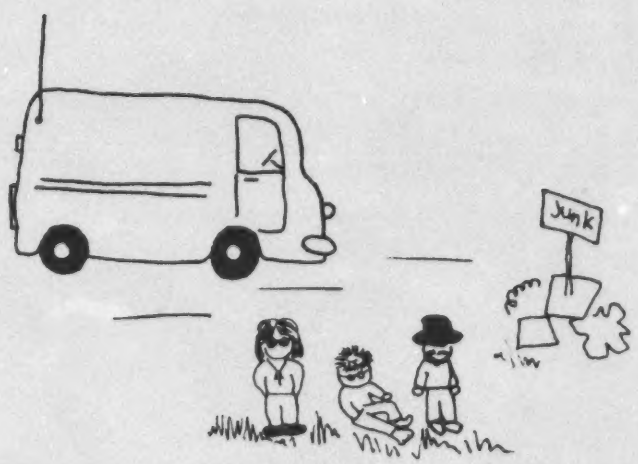
Hint: This can be used to introduce paragraphs also.

Fairytale Change About

Read a fairytale. Have your children write a fairytale, using the same story form, but change the characters. Goldilocks and the three bears becomes:

Gert and the Three Hippies

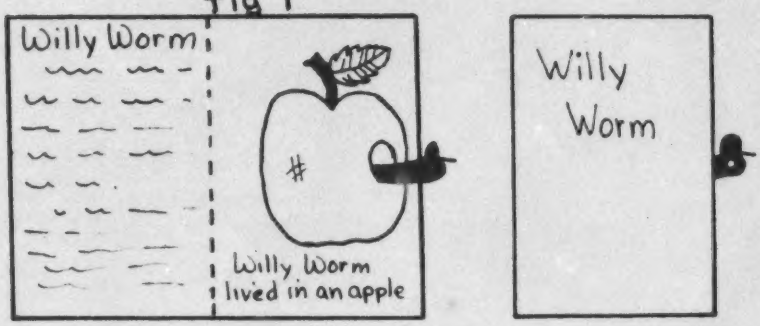
Once upon a time there lived three hippies in the back of a junkyard in a van. One was real tall, one was medium, and one was under five feet. They were fixing ham and eggs and decided to sit on their rugs and listen to their stereos, etc.



Let It All Hang Out

Give each child a piece of white construction paper cut 9"x12". Fold it to make a card. Draw an object inside on the right side. [fig 1]
Write about your object.

fig 1



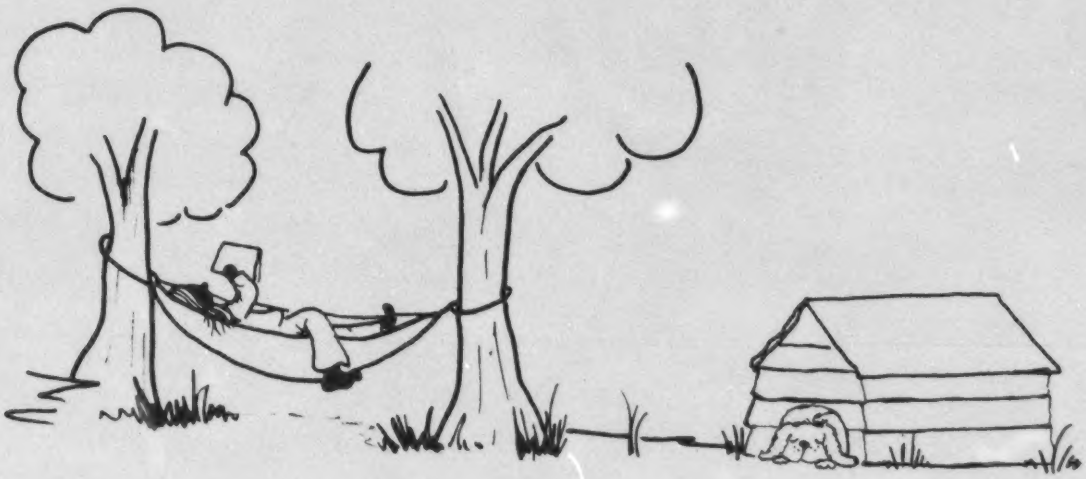
Hint: Willy Worm is cut out of pink paper and glued on so his head sticks out when card is closed.

Additional Ideas:
Make a foot with the big toe hanging out
- A tongue could hang out
- A lions tail could hang out
- A nose could hang out

Things To Do When You're Alone

Have children make a list of things to do when they're all alone. Often we forget how nice it can be to have a few minutes all to ourselves. Things like climbing a tree and watching bugs travel the limbs, or building a farm out of toothpicks on a square piece of cardboard.

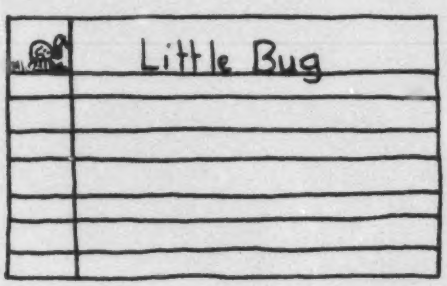
Children could draw themselves showing their favorite place to be when they're all alone.



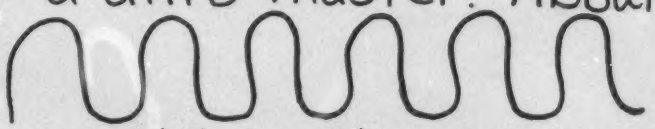
Tall And Little Stories

Cut a piece of 9"x12" penmanship paper in half. Tell children they are going to write a short story about a tall person. Children are to draw their tall person in the space next to the red line.

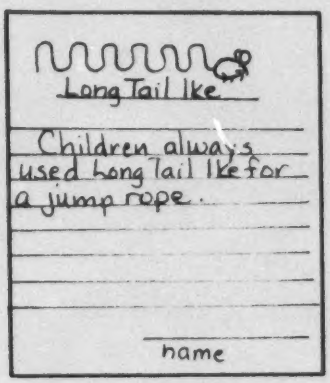
Ask children to draw a small picture in the upper left hand corner. They write their story about the little drawing.



Add To It

Draw an up and down line at the top of a ditto master. About this size. 

Children add to the line and make something familiar out of it. Children give it a title and write a story about it.



Hint:
Any design can be used. I always have some of these on hand for spare moments.

Would You Like To Be A Porkchop?

What would life be like as a porkchop or a T-Bone steak? Have children write a story about their life as a hot dog or any other cut of meat.

When I Was A Porkchop

Mike Age 9

When I was a porkchop I was put in the refrigerator and that was a cool experience. Everyday I would see my friends leave and that wasn't very nice. Then it happened. The butcher put me out in the store and a lady got me. She took me home and I heard her husband say he was going to charcoal broil me. That wasn't good news.

Then came that day when I was to be cooked. I couldn't get away. They broiled me and ate me up and that was the end.

Ghost Town Mini Stories

Give each child four pieces of paper 3" x 4". Have them put papers together and fold like a booklet. Staple pages together.

Tell children about Ghost Towns. Ask them to imagine they are standing on Main Street. Now have them write their mini story about a ghost town.

Ask children to draw and color one side of the street on a piece of 4" x 6" drawing paper.

I Think You Should Be A Polar Bear

Have children select an animal or creature. Tell them to write a letter convincing someone that being that particular animal or creature is the best way to be.

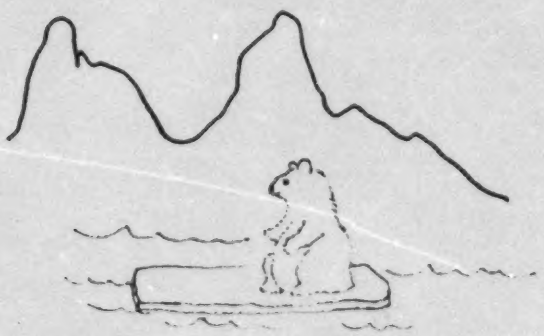
Dear Terry,

It's great fun being a Polar Bear. I don't have to live in a refrigerated house. It is easy to find ice cubes where I live.

By being a polar bear I have a nice fur coat all the time. This nice fur makes it comfortable when sliding on the ice.

Won't you consider being a polar bear? We could have lots of fun together.

Sincerely,
P. Bear

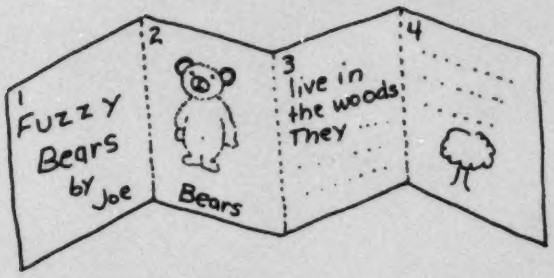


Machines, Machines

Have magazines available and begin a discussion of machines and how they work, (as well as a layman can). Then think of fun ways each machine could work, like with gooks or snooks inside a radio who do the talking. Have children look through magazines and choose a machine to write about. Descriptions of how the machine works can be wild. Be sure and have children use diagrams.

Folded Sequence Stories

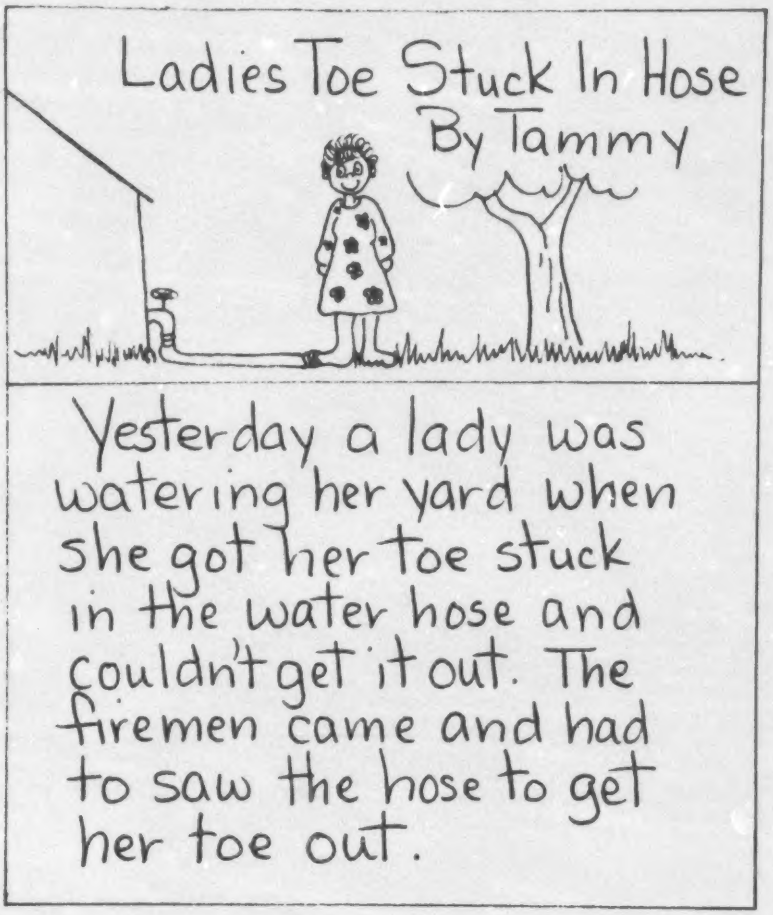
To make story writing a little bit different, pass out strips of paper 6" x 18". Fold in the middle, then fold ends back in half like this:



Children make up a title. They will then proceed to write a story putting in a picture where appropriate.

Be A News Reporter

Look at a newspaper. Read some news events. Let children write a news event. Stories can be true or made up.


Ladies Toe Stuck In Hose
By Tammy
Yesterday a lady was watering her yard when she got her toe stuck in the water hose and couldn't get it out. The firemen came and had to saw the hose to get her toe out.

A Perfect Picnic

Have a picnic basket with picnic goodies inside, maybe even a "little snack" to get everyone in the mood. Discuss a perfect picnic, then have children plan their own picnic on the paper you hand out from the picnic basket. Their picnic plan should include: where, when, who will be there, what you'll eat, and what games and fun will you have. The drawing paper could already have a checked tablecloth ready to be filled with goodies cut out from scrap paper and glued on. Now the children can finish the picture by drawing scenery all around the cloth and also include the picnickers.

A Perfect Picnic
When:
Where:
Menu:

Who'll be there:
What we'll do:

Hint: the tablecloth can be made of actual material, or small squares of grid paper.

Historical Happenings

When studying about famous people and events they took part in, have children imagine they are that famous person.

Now children pretend they are writing in a diary about that day that was important to them as that famous person.

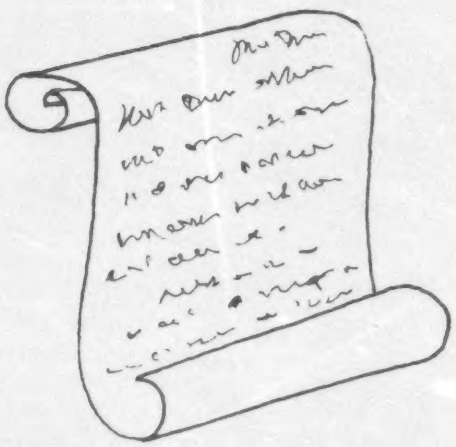
For example:

July 4, 1776

Dear Diary,

Today was certainly a busy day. I am very tired. We finally decided to sign the Declaration of Independence. And so I signed my name first. It was kind of scary, but I love my country.

Signed,
John Hancock



Questions To Ponder

Sometimes it's good for children to have a few minutes to write how they feel about something or what something means to them.

Things to be pondered and written about might include:

What things do you like about yourself?
What can you do to make yourself really happy?
What would you wish for?
What makes you really angry?
What can money be used for?
What do you do if someone teases you?
What makes a good friend?
What does it mean to be loyal?
Why should people try to be honest?
What do people depend on you for?

These thoughts could be put in a notebook that is kept by children. They could add to it at other times.

Add A Line Story

After paper is passed, each child is asked to write a story title at the top of the paper. (The story title should be made up.) Now ask children to pass paper to the person behind them. It is their job to write the first line of the story after reading the title. After the first line is finished, the child passes the paper to someone else and that person writes the second line. After the stories are long enough the last person reads the story and writes an ending.

It is fun to hear the finished stories.

Some story titles:

The Mouse
The Sea
The Ugly Pond
Getting Into Trouble
Swampy Swamps
Frog Legs
The Killer Fox

Neat Story Titles And Ideas

Convince Mom and Dad that you want a pet gorilla.
The day I became a pilot.
My adventure as a pirate.
The day I found a giant egg
Write about a nightmare
Write about 3 special wishes
Write about an adventure on a faraway planet
You meet a wild animal in the forest
Adventures with my pet
The day I got lost at the fair
The great invention
Adventures under the sea
Adventures on the farm
Adventures at summer camp
Adventures in a haunted house
The great escape from big foot
The perils of being a circus performer
The day I saved a stranded animal
My best friend
The day my parachute opened just in time
Hang gliding fun
Riding my Honda
Winning the big race

Lost in an abandoned mine
The most exciting day of my life
A balloon trip around the world
My favorite hiding place
My pet monster
A happy holiday
The surprise party
Water skiing
My first time in the snow
A magic carpet ride
What makes mother proud?
What makes dad proud?
Walking to school on a frosty morning
A dust storm
The night the bears came into camp
A visit to an amusement park
Visiting the Grand Canyon
Fun in Yellowstone Park
Things I do on a rainy day
Searching for buried treasure
The biggest fish I ever saw
My dad's flying car
My treehouse

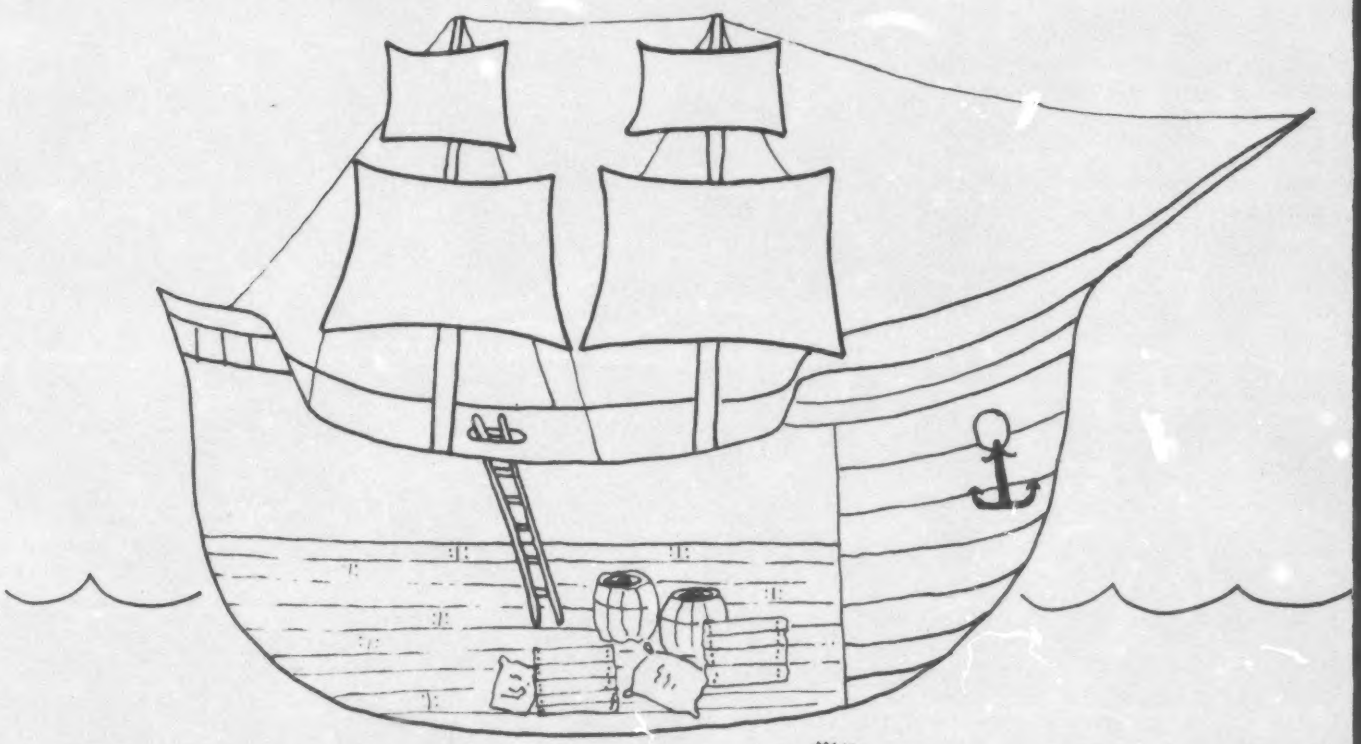
Hint: by changing one or two words in each story title or idea, you will have a new story title.

Holidays

These holiday activities are designed to provide children with learning experiences that include values. Some activities may be changed around to fit children's varied holiday backgrounds. For example: "A Christmas Present Wish", on page 75, could be changed to suit any holiday wish.

Columbus Takes A Journey

After Columbus and his accomplishments have been discussed, the children can remember events in this way. Give each child a large sheet of drawing paper and have them draw a large outline of Columbus's ship. They then imagine they are in charge of loading the ship for Columbus's journey, they "load" the hull with necessary supplies like: water, food, blankets, compasses, etc. They draw these in the hull and label them. Then on the sails of the ship they write important things about Columbus they'd like to remember.



Magic Spells

Around Halloween, ghosts haunt, pumpkins glow and witches cast spells, all great fun to think about. A little twist for spell casting is this activity.

Children pick someone to cast a super fantastic spell on and the spell gives that person a special magic quality. The important thing is to have the spell a good one, not "turn into a toad" type spell.

Witches Spell

My spell is for: _____

When it works that person will be _____

able to: _____

_____

Recipe for spell: _____

_____

To make this spell work you must: _____

Halloween Dress-Up

It's always fun to dress-up, in this activity the child dresses up someone he's never dressed-up before. What kind of costume would your Mom or Dad wear on Halloween? Or maybe your cat or dog? A child might want to draw a whole masquerade party with Grandma and Grandpa, too!

Moody Pumpkins

In a container decorated with a pumpkin face, have slips of paper that have a mood written on each. The children draw out a slip and write a story about a pumpkin with that particular mood, and what made him like that. Then on a piece of orange paper they draw their pumpkin looking as much like the mood as they can. They should title their story The _____ Pumpkin.
(mood)

Suggested moods:

angry	conceited
happy	brainy
jolly	goofy
hungry	depressed
jealous	quiet
fierce	merry
scary	wicked
shy	giggly
devilish	angelic

The Thanksgiving Feast

During Thanksgiving time have the children write a menu of what was served at the first feast. (Remind them that there wouldn't be any hamburgers or pizzas) After they have written out the menu, they could next prepare an invitation inviting guests to the feast.

Hint: Perhaps some would like to write how Thanksgiving is different now, maybe it does include pizza.

A Christmas Present Wish

This is a way of exchanging presents without buying anything.

Put each childs name on a slip of paper and have each child draw a name.

The child now needs to think of a special present that person might really like to have.

Fold a piece of paper in half and on the front draw a gaily wrapped present.

At the top write:

My Christmas present to: _____. From: ____

Then on the inside draw that special gift. You might want to write why you think it is a special gift.

note: children might want to cut a picture out of a magazine and glue it inside the card.

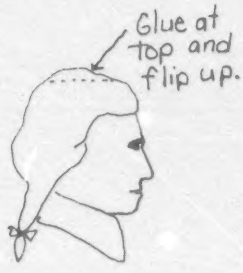
Christmas Wishes Big And Small

Take a piece of paper 8"X11" and on one side write a Christmas wish for the whole world. Then draw a picture of that wish. Then fold paper in half and on that side, write and draw a wish for your whole family. Fold paper again and on that piece write and draw a wish for a special friend or pet. Finally fold paper in half again, and on that piece draw a wish for yourself.

Abe Lincoln's Beard

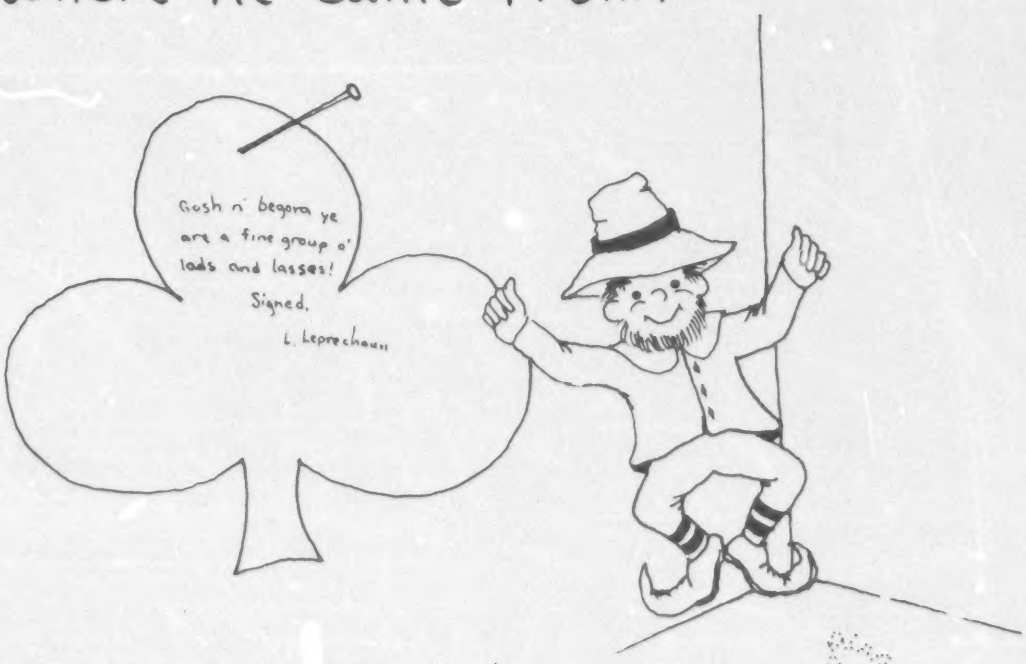
After stories of Lincoln have been read and his life discussed. Pass out a large sheet of drawing paper and a smaller piece of black paper. Children then sketch the face of Lincoln as best they can. Neck and shoulders can be included. Then around his jawline, children write an important thing they'd like to remember about him. Next, with the black paper, measure a beard to fit on Abe's jaw and cut it out. Glue it on both sides so that it can be lifted up to show the writing underneath. The whole portrait should be colored.

Hint: This activity can be used to celebrate Washington's Birthday. Have George "flip his wig".



Leprechaun Footprints

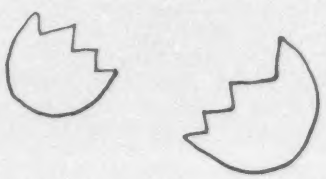
Before St. Patrick's Day arrange for small footprints to start appearing in different places. Write a note from the leprechaun on a shamrock in wee handwriting and leave it for children to find. Children can write notes to the leprechaun, and stories about where he came from.

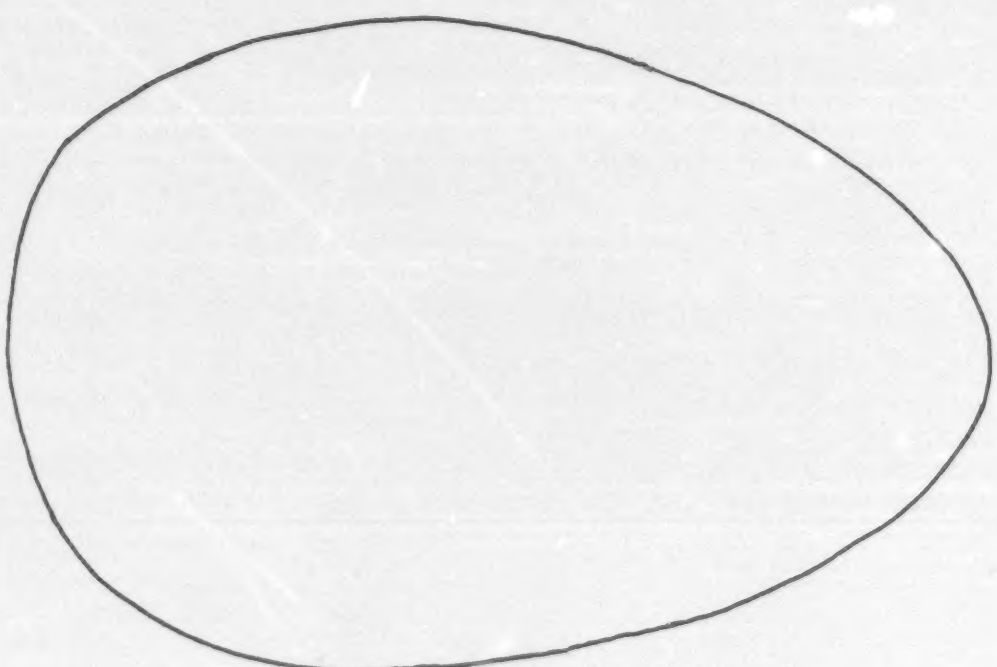


Hint: make leprechaun footprints by cutting out a small foot pattern, place it on the floor, and sprinkle glitter around it and pick up pattern.

Easter Egg Surprise

Pre-cut eggs using pattern below. Instruct children to pretend they find the egg in their backyard and it makes a strange noise. Have children cut egg in half, making it look like it hatched. They then draw the occupant.





Mother's And Father's Day

Mother's and Father's will be pleased with a booklet prepared just for them.

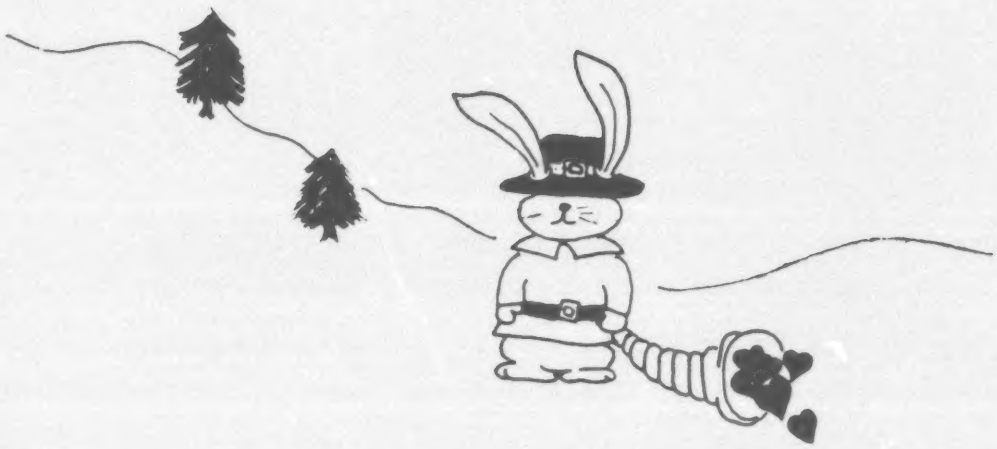
The following items could be put in the booklet:

- A poem (copied or made up)
- A special picture: a design, a family drawing, a pet.
- A picture of child
- A page of service tickets (Mom or Dad tear out a ticket and child does a special act of service.)
- A page or two of recipes for Mom. For Dad a page or two of nice things Dads do for children.

Hint:
Encourage children to make a special cover for this booklet.

Holiday Mixup

Picture Santa Claus dressed in a Leprechaun suit delivering Easter eggs. Or the Easter Bunny dressed as a pilgrim delivering Valentines. Have the children write about a mixed up holiday and their mixed up picture.



Special Days

Children can really get excited by having special days during the year. "Days" can be associated with units of study, like "Bear Day", or just for fun, like "Popcorn Day" Fun days can be learning experiences when you have popcorn math, hand writing, and science.

Following are some special days to have, and a list of activities that could be a part of a regular day's schedule, or used to fill up a whole day.

The possibilities of fun special days is unlimited. Have fun thinking of your own special days.

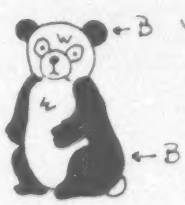
Bear Day

1. Have children bring their favorite teddy bears, or other stuffed animals. Allow time for sharing.

2. For a writing project children could write an adventure that could have happened while out walking with their stuffed friend. Writing could be done on paper shaped like a bear's head.

3. Films about bears and their habits and books could be made available for supplementary activities.

4. The outline of a bear can be drawn or a ditto prepared so children can fill in with tiny torn pieces of construction paper and make a fuzzy bear. A panda, although not really a bear, works well with this project.



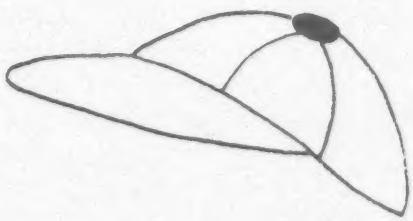
Hat Day

1. Children at home may decorate a hat or head covering anyway they want, or they can just wear their favorite hat.

2. A hat parade and contest could be held. Categories for judging might include: most loved hat, funniest creation, most original, prettiest, etc.

3. Art project: draw themselves in their hats and display in room.

4. Read "Ho For Hats" or any hat book, and then have children write stories about how their hats turned magic, and when they wore them they could fly.



Funny Feet Day

1. As with hats, children may decorate their socks, or shoes, or they might find a funny pair of shoes or socks to wear, like toe socks. (One child once wore paper bags on his feet tied with yarn.)
2. Have a parade through other classes. (Pre-warn)
3. Funny Feet Math: All kinds of problems could be put on dittos to be worked. Here are a few. Adjust to fit grade level.
    1. If 4 of your toes were stuck in the mud how many would be left? ___ - 4 = ___.
    2. There are 35 children in our class. How many feet do we have all together? ___ x 35 = ___
       How many toes? ___ x 35 = ___.
    3. If you bought shoes for an octupus and his 3 brothers, how many would you buy?
    4. Figglefoots are strange animals. They have different numbers of toes on each foot. Add the following equations to see how many toes each figglefoot has $\overset{7}{+8}$ $\overset{29}{+63}$ $\overset{47}{+38}$ $\overset{6}{+9}$
4. Handwriting: Cut writing paper in the shape of a footprint and copy a poem about feet or write a foot story.
5. Art: draw a Figglefoot with its many toes. Draw a classmate wearing their funny shoes or socks.

Baggie Business Day

Pass out a plastic baggie to each child and send them outside to look for special junk that is all over, if only you look carefully. Some "junk treasures" may include feathers, pebbles, leaves, tufts of cotton, foil gum wrappers, plastic goodies, pop tops, etc. Then everyone meets together and breaks into groups of four to share their baggie finds. They dump their junk together and complete this ditto, or something comparable.

Baggie Business

1. List words to describe your junk. All the words should start with an s.

2. List as many words as you can to describe how your junk feels.

3. List at least 7 things you could use the things in your baggie for. (Don't include their real use.)

Art: Have children pick out one thing each and use it to create a picture. A leaf could be a fish, or a pop top could be a stirrup on a saddle.

Popcorn Day

1. Ahead of time pop lots of corn to be used and consumed all day. When children walk in to the smell, they'll know something special is going to happen.
2. Discuss how popcorn is grown and how it is different from regular corn. Information is available in encyclopedia.
3. Provide each child with popcorn to use in completing a ditto or list of instructions that includes things like:

   Arrange popcorn into a circle, square, and triangle.

   Spell your name with popcorn

   Find a kernel that looks like a rocket, a lamb or anyother recognizable object.

   Study one piece very carefully and slowly pull it apart to see inside.

   Make a list of words to describe popcorn: fluffy, crunchy,

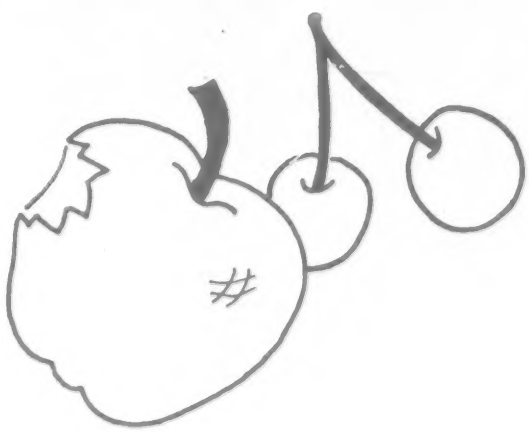
4. Make up math problems using popcorn, in a group or individually.
5. Cut a large piece of drawing paper into a popcorn shape*. Have children pretend they are "popcorn people" and this is their house. They divide the kernel into rooms and furnish it appropriately.
6. See a film, eat popcorn, end a fun day.

Red Color Day

Give instructions ahead of time that for this day children should try to wear red and bring something red to eat for lunch.

1. Children wear something red. Try to think of songs that have the word red in them. Choose one for a theme song. (Red River Valley)
2. Look through magazines and cut out red objects to glue together into a huge collage.
3. Go on a picnic to eat lunch and serve red Koolaid.
4. Do color activity in this book p. 30, using only the color red.
5. Have children think of story titles using the color red, like Little Red Riding Hood. They could make up their own title and write a story about it.

Hint: Any color could be used for a color day.



Other Special Days

Favorite Story Character Day

Sports Day (wear comfortable clothes and have outside games.)

Turn About Day (wear something backwards and do the schedule backwards)

Ecology Day (make up slogans, pick up litter around school, write letters about something that needs to be improved.

All Smiles Day (smiles must be drawn on all school work handed in. Children must smile before they speak. Do smile activity on p.49 this book.

Secret Agent Day (wear a simple disguise, write mystery stories, use clues to introduce subjects.)

Career Day (children bring in a product of a certain career to guess career, Have guest speaker, see films, write about careers.)

Fancy Shirt Day (children decorate an old shirt and wear it.)

Booklets

These activities are designed to provide children with an extended learning experience.

Booklets can be an ongoing project that can last as long as necessary.

Encourage children to be proud of their work. They may wish to recopy some parts.

Covers for booklets could be made from material that is durable, for instance oak tag or cardboard.

Some booklets are for each individual to make. Some could be used for a group project.

Be A Record Holder

Who can stand on one leg the longest?
Who can write the longest word?
Who can write the most sentences?
Who can jumprope the longest?

Challenge your children at the beginning of the school year to be a record holder. Have a record book and write up each childs accomplishment. A record can be challenged. If done at home it is required to have 2 witnesses.

Pictures of the child doing his feat can be glued in the book. Present the final book to the library.

Some more challenges:
Who can read the most books?
Who can swing the longest?
Who can turn the most cartwheels?
Who can throw the farthest?
(check with the Phys. Ed. Teacher)
Who can stack the most blocks?
Who can balance something?

An Ant's Point of View

Have children put their heads on the floor and imagine what a view of the world would look like to an ant. Each child will write an adventure in the life of an ant. Divide the life of the ant into four parts: early childhood, adolescence, teenager and adulthood. Divide the class and assign a different part to each child. Some successfully used titles are: Its tough being a baby, Alexanders heroship, The rough years. Alexander and his baby sister, Alexanders surprise party, The hike, Alexander and the attack, Alexander and the terrible black widow, The great romance, Squished almost, and The perils of growing old. Draw a picture to go along with each story After everyone is finished compile and make into a booklet.

Fact: Ants raise herds of aphids and feed the aphids milk to baby ants.

SPORTS BOOKLET

Have paper and magazines available. Magazines about sports would be preferable. Children can pick a favorite sport and prepare a booklet about that sport. Here are a few suggestions to include:

1. An explanation of the sport including rules, equipment, etc.
2. Stories about hero's of this sport.
3. Pictures from magazines or pictures drawn by children.
4. A story, written as if the child was involved in the sport.
5. A glossary that includes sports terms and their meanings, written in the child's own words.

Weather Booklet

Any number of activities could be included in a weather booklet. Here are a few suggestions:

1. Have a chart where children can record a weather report for several days. A space could be provided where they could predict the next days weather.
2. Illustrations that depict the four seasons and a list of things to do in each season.
3. The different types of clouds can be formed using cotton on blue construction paper.
4. Stories about people who are weather reporters. Write a few pages of a meteorologists diary.
5. Glossary that includes weather terms and their meanings, written in the child's own words.

Man's Best Friend Booklet

A good way to start this activity is to bring in a gentle dog to watch and discuss. After children have remembered the qualities of a dog they can put together a book with several different parts about dogs. Each child can write about all the topics, or just choose one to do an especially good job on. These different topics could include:

- a list of 10 good dog names and a reason why it's a good name.
- a story about a dog being a hero, made up or true.
- tips on how to care for a new puppy, feeding, training, bathing, etc.
- favorite poems about dogs or a made up poem.
- reports of working dogs and their duties, like watch dogs, police dogs, and seeing eye dogs.
- reports about famous dogs.

P.S. Don't forget to include pictures.

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